

How U.S.-China Trade Tensions are Reshaping the Global Fastener Supply Chain

美中貿易緊張如何重塑全球緊固件供應鏈

Data note: The data for this article is derived from the US Census trade statistics. US Census trade statistics analyze imports and exports on all modes of transportation. That value is calculated in USD by general FOB for imports and FOB for exports. Fasteners in this article are defined as any product under HS Code 7318 (screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter pins, washers and similar articles, of iron or steel). The volume in terms of mass is recorded in Gross Weight (KG).

The ongoing trade tensions between the United States and China have sent ripple effects throughout the global fastener supply chain, fundamentally reshaping trade flows, manufacturing practice and strategic planning across multiple industries. These dynamics are beginning to be seen in the first few months of 2025 through statistical trade data and the shift in fastener trade between these two major economic powers. Additionally, the escalation of tariffs and regulatory measures are beginning to have immediate impacts on trade policies and international market strategies. Ultimately, the manufacturers and importers are managing operational pressures including rising costs and logistical disruptions deepening the economic divide between the U.S. and China.

Statistical Trends in US-China Fastener Exchange

Looking at the fastener supply chain on a holistic level, the U.S. primarily sources from Taiwan and China. Historically, Taiwan has maintained upwards of 30% of the market share of fastener trade to the U.S., followed by China that has maintained anywhere from 17% to 20% of the total market share in FOB value (Table 1-1 to 1-2). Countries such as Japan, Canada and Germany follow suit, accounting for upwards of 5% to 10% of the total market share. In February 2025, U.S. fastener imports from China totaled USD

Table 1-1. U.S. Import Origins of Fasteners (2022-2023)

Country of Origin	2022				2023			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
Taiwan	3,017,233,454	39.02	787,148,378	39.63	2,212,878,280	34.91	599,043,132	38.18
China	1,607,808,814	20.79	671,219,066	33.79	1,083,800,060	17.10	490,342,798	31.25
Japan	569,860,592	7.37	129,333,551	6.52	557,379,560	8.80	128,329,529	8.18
Canada	386,052,936	5.00	328,589	0.02	403,342,454	6.37	209,512	0.02
Germany	365,310,752	4.73	43,126,305	2.18	376,438,579	5.94	40,717,612	2.60
World	7,734,349,445	100	1,986,635,935	100	6,340,039,968	100	1,569,408,097	100



95 million (Table 1-3), down from USD 121 million in January – a sharp 21% decline (Table 1-2). This stark decline in February 2025 can be attributed to the tariff threats of late 2024 following the presidential election results where U.S. importers may have begun to shift to a more conservative mindset. Overall, there was a near 11% decline in total fastener imports into the U.S. in February 2025 compared to January 2025.

Table 1-2. U.S. Import Origins of Fasteners (2024-Jan. 2025)

Country of Origin	2024				2025 - Jan.			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
Taiwan	2,173,207,776	32.76	620,248,460	36.18	185,662,804	31.67	53,712,007	33.22
China	1,192,677,935	17.98	587,910,874	34.30	121,299,531	20.69	62,646,833	38.74
Japan	622,987,938	9.40	130,841,085	7.64	55,086,745	9.40	13,259,681	8.20
Canada	408,160,948	6.16	377,717	0.03	36,675,101	6.26	15,909	0.01
Germany	388,416,313	5.86	40,327,551	2.36	23,941,337	4.09	2,552,211	1.58
World	6,633,900,719	100	1,714,400,686	100	586,315,082	100	161,715,727	100

Table 1-3. U.S. Import Origins of Fasteners (Feb. 2025)

Country of Origin	2025 - Feb.				Month-over-Month Volume Change			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
Taiwan	170,666,252	32.66	49,536,083	36.76	-14,996,552	-8.08	-4,175,924	-7.78
China	95,540,347	18.29	47,410,769	35.19	-25,759,184	-21.24	-15,236,064	-24.33
Japan	40,335,440	7.72	9,039,831	6.71	-14,751,305	-26.78	-4,219,850	-31.83
Canada	31,045,975	5.95	32,424	0.03	-5,629,126	-15.35	16,515	103.81
Germany	27,624,482	5.29	2,857,979	2.13	3,683,145	15.39	305,768	11.99
World	522,554,499	100	134,756,608	100	-63,760,583	-10.88	-26,959,119	-16.68

Table 2-1. Fasteners Imported from China to the U.S. by Category (2022-2023)

731811 - Coach Screws, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel

731814 - Self-Tapping Screws, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel

731815 - Other Threaded Screws And Bolts, With Or Without Their Nuts Or Washers, Of Iron Or Steel

731816 - Nuts, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel

731819 - Other Threaded Articles Of Iron Or Steel

731821 - Spring Washers And Other Lock Washers, Of Iron Or Steel

731822 - Washers, Other Than Lock Washers, Of Iron Or Steel

731823 - Rivets Of Iron Or Steel

731824 - Cotters And Cotter Pins, Of Iron Or Steel

731829 - Other Nonthreaded Articles (Fasteners), Of Iron Or Steel

HS Code	2022				2023			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
731815	707,791,015	44.03	333,603,703	49.71	478,956,355	44.20	231,535,217	47.22
731816	414,211,284	25.77	166,558,675	24.82	258,364,303	23.84	116,457,050	23.76
731814	100,658,029	6.27	37,659,172	5.62	105,122,017	9.70	55,209,995	11.26
731822	151,588,432	9.43	74,749,904	11.14	85,528,691	7.90	42,927,202	8.76
731829	85,991,900	5.35	15,375,647	2.30	61,725,422	5.70	14,071,578	2.87
731819	51,865,908	3.23	9,879,931	1.48	32,918,233	3.04	6,799,388	1.39
731821	17,644,331	1.10	5,141,219	0.77	12,430,005	1.15	3,604,209	0.74
731824	16,760,097	1.05	4,029,235	0.61	11,470,269	1.06	2,870,151	0.59
731811	18,835,713	1.18	12,808,831	1.91	10,439,666	0.97	9,108,756	1.86
731823	20,443,871	1.28	3,729,230	0.56	10,141,943	0.94	1,736,062	0.36
Total	1,607,808,814	100	671,219,066	100	1,083,800,060	100	490,342,798	100

Table 2-2. Fasteners Imported from China to the U.S. by Category (2024-Feb. 2025)

731811 - Coach Screws, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel
 731814 - Self-Tapping Screws, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel
 731815 - Other Threaded Screws And Bolts, With Or Without Their Nuts Or Washers, Of Iron Or Steel
 731816 - Nuts, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel
 731819 - Other Threaded Articles Of Iron Or Steel
 731821 - Spring Washers And Other Lock Washers, Of Iron Or Steel
 731822 - Washers, Other Than Lock Washers, Of Iron Or Steel
 731823 - Rivets Of Iron Or Steel
 731824 - Cotters And Cotter Pins, Of Iron Or Steel
 731829 - Other Nonthreaded Articles (Fasteners), Of Iron Or Steel

HS Code	2024				2025 - Jan.			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
731815	519,075,368	43.53	275,322,482	46.84	55,980,363	46.16	31,376,795	50.09
731816	297,185,038	24.92	143,357,150	24.39	29,450,230	24.28	15,533,304	24.80
731814	116,204,622	9.75	66,234,969	11.27	10,356,047	8.54	5,606,589	8.95
731822	93,557,820	7.85	55,030,314	9.37	9,047,732	7.46	5,267,381	8.41
731829	62,768,865	5.27	13,595,576	2.32	5,885,613	4.86	1,170,518	1.87
731819	35,075,896	2.95	7,434,508	1.27	4,048,187	3.34	923,333	1.48
731821	14,471,299	1.22	4,987,005	0.85	988,628	0.82	914,034	1.46
731824	13,170,421	1.11	3,168,264	0.54	1,442,328	1.19	565,039	0.91
731811	11,636,907	0.98	9,822,057	1.68	938,464	0.78	176,610	0.29
731823	11,428,521	0.96	2,091,416	0.36	1,281,480	1.06	341,150	0.55
Total	1,192,677,935	100	587,910,874	100	121,299,531.00	100	62,646,833.00	100

HS Code	2025 - Feb.				Month-over-Month Volume Change			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
731815	43,891,099	45.94	23,663,063	49.92	-12,089,264	-21.60	-7,713,732	-24.59
731816	24,387,758	25.53	11,285,638	23.81	-5,062,472	-17.19	-4,247,666	-27.35
731814	7,574,746	7.93	4,059,084	8.57	-2,781,301	-26.86	-1,547,505	-27.61
731822	7,472,390	7.83	4,559,219	9.62	-1,575,342	-17.42	-708,162	-13.45
731829	4,167,517	4.37	956,888	2.02	-1,718,096	-29.20	-213,630	-18.26
731819	2,689,529	2.82	658,945	1.39	-1,358,658	-33.57	-264,388	-28.64
731821	1,119,659	1.18	838,775	1.77	131,031	13.26	-75,259	-8.24
731824	1,081,487	1.14	358,475	0.76	-360,841	-25.02	-206,564	-36.56
731811	887,298	0.93	243,148	0.52	-51,166	-5.46	66,538	37.68
731823	856,308	0.90	196,309	0.42	-425,172	-33.18	-144,841	-42.46
Total	95,540,347	100	47,410,769	100	-25,759,184	-21.24	-15,236,064	-24.33

Table 3-1. Fasteners Exported from the U.S. (Jan. - Feb. 2025)

Country of Destination	2025 - Jan.				2025 - Feb.			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
Mexico	167,849,041	34.95	78,252	1.01	161,847,884	33.55	74,268	0.87
Canada	112,146,585	23.35	589,238	7.57	112,690,833	23.36	435,538	5.10
China	23,795,939	4.96	937,157	12.04	21,712,351	4.51	708,538	8.29
Germany	11,400,960	2.38	436,963	5.61	17,702,576	3.67	647,649	7.58
UK	15,545,008	3.24	435,052	5.59	16,124,780	3.35	509,753	5.97
World	480,308,904	100	7,789,026	100	482,422,189	100	8,547,942	100



The U.S. primarily imports fasteners from China within HS 731815 (threaded screws and bolts), 731816 (threaded nuts), and 731814 (self-tapping screws) (Table 2-1 to 2-2). These are all common components in the automotive industry for engine assembly and suspension systems. However, these are also components used for manufacturing machinery equipment, electronics and appliances. In February 2025, U.S. imports from China fell by 21.6% for HS 731815, 17% for HS 731816, and nearly 27% for HS 731814. In addition to the decline in market share by value, February 2025 also saw a significant drop in fastener import volumes, with a 24% decrease recorded (Table 2-2).

Table 3-2. Fasteners Exported from the U.S. (Jan. – Feb. 2025)

Country of Destination	Month-over-Month Volume Change			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
Mexico	-6,001,157	-3.58	-3,984	-5.10
Canada	544,248	0.49	-153,700	-26.09
China	-2,083,588	-8.76	-228,619	-24.40
Germany	6,301,616	55.28	210,686	48.22
UK	579,772	3.73	74,701	17.18
World	2,113,285	0.44	758,916	9.75

Table 4. Fasteners Exported from the U.S. to China by Category (Jan. – Feb. 2025)

731812 - Wood Screws Other Than Coach Screws, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel

731814 - Self-Tapping Screws, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel

731815 - Other Threaded Screws And Bolts, With Or Without Their Nuts Or Washers, Of Iron Or Steel

731816 - Nuts, Threaded, Of Iron Or Steel

731819 - Other Threaded Articles Of Iron Or Steel

731821 - Spring Washers And Other Lock Washers, Of Iron Or Steel

731822 - Washers, Other Than Lock Washers, Of Iron Or Steel

731823 - Rivets Of Iron Or Steel

731824 - Cotter Pins, Of Iron Or Steel

731829 - Other Nonthreaded Articles (Fasteners), Of Iron Or Steel

HS Code	2025 - Jan.				2025 - Feb.			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
731815	8,521,004	35.81	454,046	48.45	7,114,008	32.77	229,844	32.44
731816	4,702,345	19.77	74,981	8.01	5,510,337	25.38	84,503	11.93
731829	4,911,860	20.65	79,269	8.46	2,668,582	12.30	63,709	9.00
731822	1,564,858	6.58	139,210	14.86	2,106,337	9.71	152,372	21.51
731819	1,237,212	5.20	33,818	3.61	1,406,954	6.48	29,092	4.11
731824	1,178,598	4.96	73,416	7.84	1,213,887	5.60	65,881	9.30
731823	540,557	2.28	35,309	3.77	993,958	4.58	58,322	8.24
731821	859,024	3.61	26,493	2.83	507,274	2.34	15,376	2.18
731814	208,579	0.88	15,664	1.68	145,746	0.68	4,746	0.67
731812	0	0.00	0	0.00	19,502	0.09	3,651	0.52
Total	23,795,939	100	937,157	100	21,712,351	100	708,538	100

HS Code	Month-over-Month Volume Change			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Gross Weight (Kg.)	%
731815	-1,406,996	-16.52	-224,202	-49.38
731816	807,992	17.19	9,522	12.70
731829	-2,243,278	-45.68	-15,560	-19.63
731822	541,479	34.61	13,162	9.46
731819	169,742	13.72	-4,726	-13.98
731824	35,289	3.00	-7,535	-10.27
731823	453,401	83.88	23,013	65.18
731821	-351,750	-40.95	-11,117	-41.97
731814	-62,833	-30.13	-10,918	-69.71
731812	19,502	100.00	3,651	100.00
Total	-2,083,588	-8.76	-228,619	-24.40

In relation to U.S. fastener exports, China has remained strong as its third largest trading partner accounting for 5% of the total market share. Ahead of China are Canada and Mexico which together account for over 50% of the total market share. Due to the USMCA trade agreement, U.S. trade with its immediate neighboring partners is beneficial for several reasons including advantages on tariffs. In February 2025, there was a slight decrease of 9% in total fastener exports from the U.S. to China (Table 3-1 to 3-2). Amongst the fasteners exported from the U.S. to China were 731815, 731816, and 731829 (non-threaded articles of fasteners) (Table 4).

Tariff Tensions in 2025

In 2025, the U.S.-China trade relationship intensified sharply, beginning in February when the United States imposed a 10% tariff on all Chinese imports of goods, citing national security concerns. This was quickly followed by a second increase in March which raised the tariff to 20%. By early April, a more aggressive stance was taken as the U.S. implemented an additional 34% tariff, bringing the cumulative rate to 54%, and immediately increased it further to 125% with a clarification pushing the effective rate to 145%. In response, China launched a series of retaliatory measures beginning in February with the imposed tariff ranging from 10-15% on key U.S. exports including commodities such as crude oil, LNG, agricultural machinery, and vehicles. In March, this expanded to agricultural goods such as soybeans, port and cotton. By mid-April, China escalated its retaliation, first raising tariffs on all U.S. goods to 84%, and then to 125%. It also suspended exports of critical minerals and magnets essential to high-tech manufacturing, signaling a strategic shift beyond tariffs. These actions combined marked a severe escalation in trade tensions, with profound implication for industries reliant on U.S.-China supply chains, including fasteners.

Higher tariffs sharply increase the price of Chinese fasteners leading to a higher landed cost for US Importers and consumers. This will more than likely cause a rise in production costs for U.S. manufacturers who rely on Chinese fasteners. Let alone the number of supply chain disruptions that will be seen considering how fasteners are a critical component. These disruptions could lead to delays or cost fluctuations, and ultimately cause inventory planning issues for companies relying on Chinese suppliers.

Real World Impacts on Manufacturing and Procurement Operations

The 2025 escalation in U.S.-China trade tensions has had immediate, tangible effects on manufacturing and procurement operations across the fastener supply chain. With import costs rising sharply due to elevated tariffs, U.S. manufacturers face mounting pressure to manage tighter margins, especially in cost-sensitive sectors like automotive, electronics, and industrial equipment. **Procurement teams are contending with increased lead times, limited availability of specific fastener types, and greater volatility in pricing.** The uncertainty around future policy shifts has led many companies to adjust purchasing strategies such as placing earlier or larger orders, increasing safety stock levels, or renegotiating supplier contracts to include contingency clauses. Operationally, manufacturers are also absorbing the impact of supply delays from China, forcing adjustments to production schedules and occasionally leading to stalled assembly lines. These pressures are not only straining supplier relationships but also reshaping how manufacturers evaluate risk and resilience within their global sourcing strategies.

In summary, the 2025 tariff escalation has created a costlier, riskier and less predictable trade environment for fasteners moving between the U.S. and China, with consequences for both immediate operations and long-term supply planning. ■

Copyright owned by Fastener World / Article by Sabrina Rodriguez

SHI GANG ENTERPRISE CO., LTD.

Wherever you are, we can always save your time for more solutions.



Factory: Renwu, Kaohsiung
No. 29-3, Ln. 165, Fengren Rd., Renwu Dist.,
Kaohsiung City 814017, Taiwan
E-mail: peng.kang@seed.net.tw
E-mail: andy3472818@hotmail.com
FAX: 886-7-3741074

